Pointer Oct. 17, 1975 (Stevens Point Student Rp)

books

Whitewash IV: Top Secret JFK Assassination Transcript, by Harold Weisberg with a legal analysis by Jim Lesar (Harold Weisberg, Publisher Route 8, Frederick, MD 21701)

Reviewed by Terry Testolin

If the evidence behind the Warren Commision Report supports the conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald alone assassinated John F. Kennedy, why should it be necessary to suppress any evidence? Did the commission have something to hide?

Harold Weisberg in this, his sixth, book on the JFK assassination publishes the Top Secret executive session of the Warren Commission held on Jan. 27, 1964, which shatters the integrity of the entire investigation.

Casual reading of the 130 pages of documents (if you can decipher the blurred sections which Weisberg hints was intentional) leaves little doubt as to the intent of the Warren Commission.

The Chairman, Chief Justice Warren, commission counsel, Mr. Rankin and the rest of the distinguished investigators adhered unwaiveringly to the "lone revolutionary nut theory". Guided by this preconcieved prejudice, the commission's standard operating procedure "in the pursuit of justice" was to disprove, ignore, falsify, or obfuscate any evidence which might hint at conspiracy.

That the contrary evidence was there is witnessed by the manner in which the Commission dealt with the post assassination rumor, leaked by the press, that Oswald had connections with the FBI. The commissioners who seemed most concerned about how to disprove the ugly rumor, without injuring the pride of Herbert Hoover (who many astute political muckrakers maintain "had something on everyone"), ignored affidavits linking Oswald with the FBI, lied by denying possession of any documents in the first place, and were often contradicted by the reports of other executive investigatory bodies.

Unknown by many Americans is the fact that President Gerry Ford was a member of the commission,

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and made a bundle selling a book about the investigation which included passages from the Top Secret executive session printed in Whitewash IV. Weisberg tarnishes Ford's "Mr. Clean" image by pointing out that his book was published before the Top Secret session was officially declassified and released, making our president answerable to criminal litigation. "The man who played football without a helmet" as Gerry Ford was so humorously described by the late LBJ, is further revealed as a sloppy plagiarist (inaccuracies, substitutions and ommissions in the secret documents lifted) and a liar before God (he denied having used Top Secret material).

Weisberg, who concludes that "one man could not have done the shooting" thus "there was a conspiracy to kill the president" is no novice to assassinalia.

He has worked long hours digging in the documents of the National Archives for the last ten years and has been in and out of court suits for the documents published in this book for the last six years. During the course of his work, Weisberg has experienced, first hand, the "suppressive and corrupt practices of the government".

Establishment publishing firms, who recognize well the areas off limits to investigative journalists, wouldn't touch Weisberg's books, although they had many words of praise for his scholarship. As a result, Weisberg introduced the subject of the JFK whitewash in an underground publication printed himself at his home, in Frederick, Md.

Beyond stripping the veneer of compentancy from the Warren Commission, Weisberg details how the institutions of the country are breaking down from within. His struggle with government executives of Watergate mentality, who hamstrung the judicial system by their absurd use of the Freedom of Information Act, indicates how the "peoples right to know" is being trampled by unfounded claims of the "national security interest".

This book should even piss off the Pope.

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